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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3248  
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE  
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RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
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RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUCOWCV/CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3249

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 000391

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/CCA

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SUBJECT: CUBAN GOVERNMENT HEATS UP PROPAGANDA WAR

Classified By: A/COM: James L. Williams: For reasons 1.4 b/d

11. (C) Summary: On May 19 the Cuban government held a press conference to make accusations that USINT employees are involved in directly distributing funds from private organizations, including some with alleged terrorist ties, to "counter-revolutionaries" in Cuba. Documents obtained clandestinely as well as photographs and excerpts of surreptitiously taped telephone conversations were presented. Noted pro-democracy activist, Martha Beatriz Roque (MBR), the subject of many of these accusations, stated that she could not access her e-mail accounts and that her cell phone was not working. Believing that many of these documents were obtained from the USINT IRC she frequents, MBR stated that she intends to have no further contact with USINT. End Summary.

12. (C) During the press conference officials of both the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a series of documents -- most of them intercepted e-mails -- in an effort to demonstrate a link between funds provided by a "terrorist" currently serving time in a Florida prison for arms possession, Santiago Alvarez Fernandez-Marina, and several Cuban dissidents, including MBR, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez ("Antunez"), and Laura Pollan, spokesperson for the "Ladies in White" (Damas de Blanco). Alvarez allegedly helped smuggle suspected terrorist Luis Posada Carriles into the US and operates a private charity with tax-exempt status in Florida called the Fundacion Rescate Juridico.

13. (C) Although the alleged connections seemed tenuous, the officials accused USINT Chief of Mission Michael Parmly of carrying funds from Fundacion Rescate Juridico and giving the money to MBR. They also played excerpts of telephone conversations between MBR and USINT officials Paula Mendez, POL/ECON Political Assistant, and Economic Officer Ramon "Chico" Negrón. The GOC officials cited both employees by name, and showed a picture of Negrón. Mendez and Negrón were heard speaking briefly with MBR about some of her recent activities.

14. (C) The documents showed MBR acknowledging the receipt of some kind of assistance, although not clearly cash, from the organization in question. There was also a letter from MBR to the lawyers of Alvarez expressing support. The GOC officials also showed video of MBR calmly walking up the stairs of a police bus juxtaposed with audio of her

describing to Radio Marti that she was thrown inside "like a sack of potatoes".

15. (C) MBR told Charge that at least one of the documents presented was one that had gone missing after MBR asked a local employee in USINT's Internet center to copy or scan it. She identified two other documents as having been scanned at USINT and sent from USINT's Internet center. MBR stated to charge that she would end contact with USINT as the result of these events. She however plans to attend an event on May 21 at the home of the Public Affairs Officer to view a live broadcast of White House activities in honor of "Cuban Solidarity Day."

16. (C) On May 19 and 20 the GOC plans to devote its nightly "Mesa Redonda" newscasts to this issue. USINT will monitor the situation.

WILLIAMS  
PARMLY